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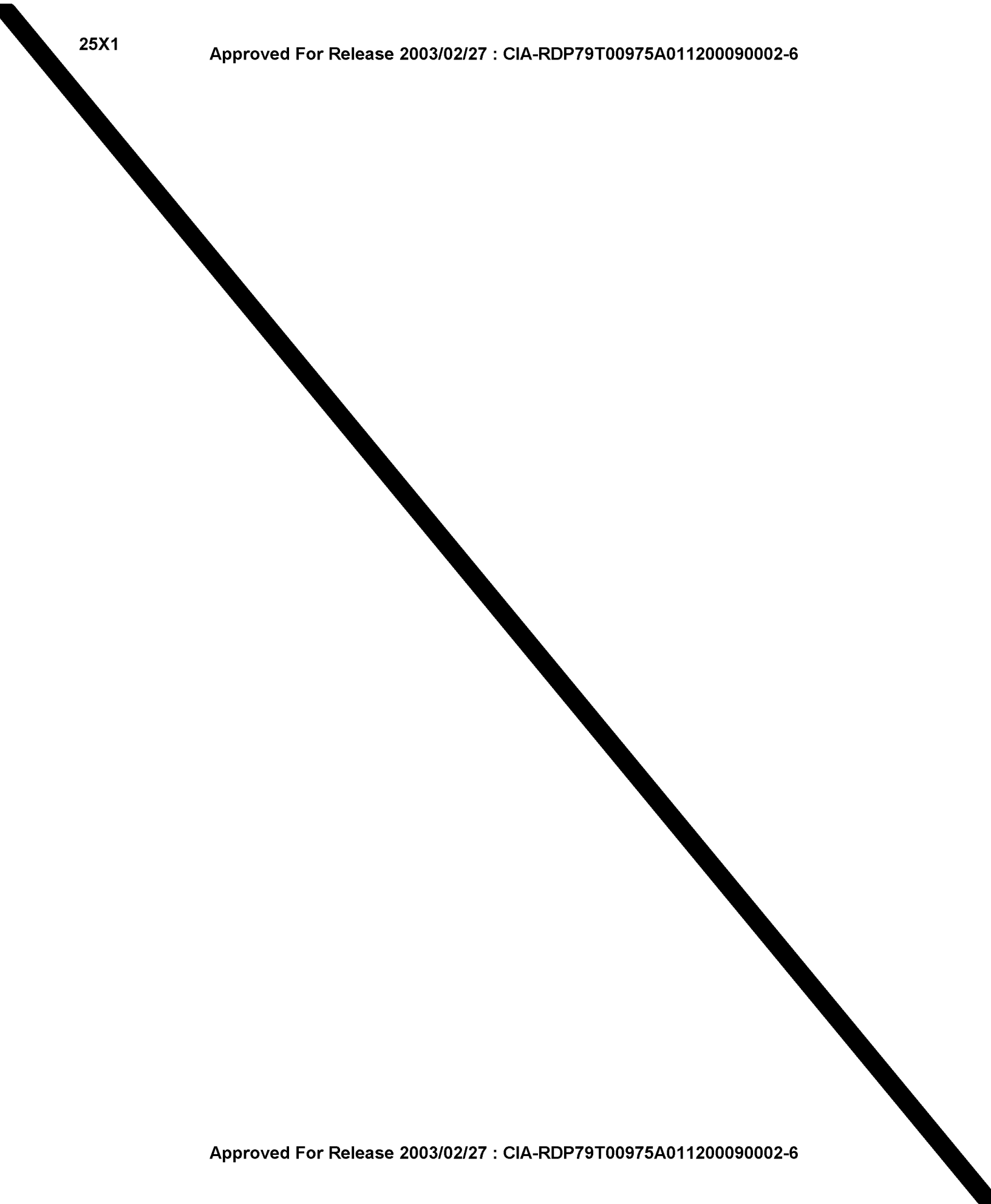

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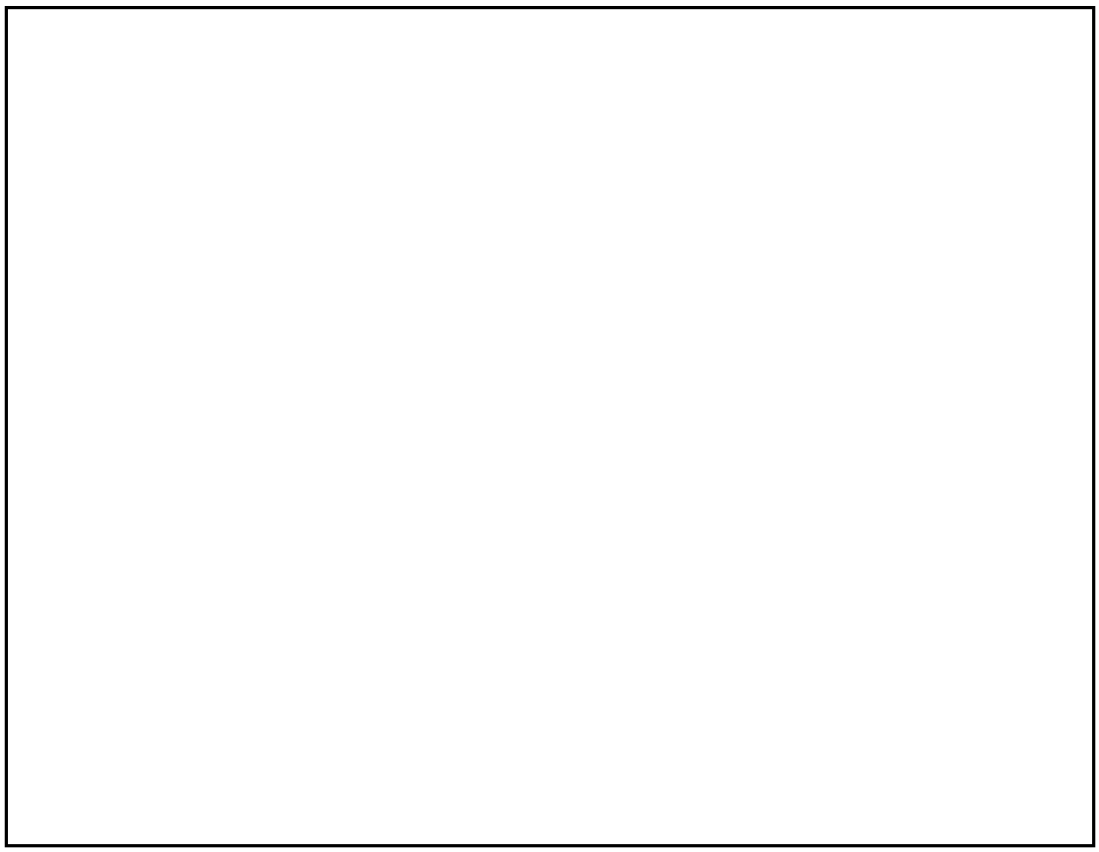

USSR-Iran: Naval visit (Page 7)

Cuba: President absent (Page 8)

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NOTES

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USSR-Iran: Soviet naval units will visit Iran on 24 June. Arrangement of the visit was revealed as a military delegation headed by Marshal Zakharov, the USSR's chief of staff, arrived in Tehran. Iranian officials asserted that the Shah had no valid reason to refuse the naval visit, which will be the second Soviet port call in the Persian Gulf in as many months. The ships showed the flag earlier on goodwill visits to Iraq, India, and Somalia, and are scheduled to call at Karachi from 25 to 31 May.

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Cuba: The new Soviet ambassador to Cuba, Aleksandr Soldatov, presented his credentials to Foreign Minister Roa on 16 May instead of to President Osvaldo Dorticos as is normal protocol. Dorticos has been absent from other major functions since early April, without official explanation. His absence could be caused by any number of reasons, including physical incapacitation resulting from a serious back ailment or by his having fallen from Castro's grace because of his relatively moderate approach to Cuba's problems.

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